



A crowning sight

IN a city such as Shanghai, a mass of high rise buildings, it was a bonus to stay at the Westin Bund Center, Shanghai, which apart from its spacious rooms and ginormous, sleep inducing 'Heavenly Bed,' rises between two architecturally dazzling 26-story towers, topped by a distinctive lotus-styled crown.

Well-lit at night, it is an easy to spot landmark from ground level.

Shanghai is already a popular MICE destination with Australian event organisers, and the sophistication and expertise of its hotels, venues, restaurants and multi-lingual, international staff can only see this business increase exponentially.

MEANWHILE back in Sydney, it looks like a busy week ahead as events and Christmas parties kick in and a Norfolk Island faml begins at the weeks end.

No rest, as they say, so see you on the rounds! Jill



Shanghai gets it!



AT the conclusion of a Shanghai faml hosted by the Shanghai Municipal Tourism Administration and the Westin Bund Center Hotel, Shanghai last week, James Zheng, vice director Shanghai International Conference Management Organization (SICMO) held a wrap-up presentation at the Westin for the participants.

Describing Shanghai as the gateway to China, the centre of science and technology, Zheng said it is also a city of immigrants.

"The SICMO is a bureau that offers member services, just like Business Events Sydney does," he assured of the assistance they

provide organisers.

With more than 100,000 hotel rooms and more new hotels and venues opening or re-opening after restoration, visible change is occurring at a rapid pace.

The Hyatt J Shanghai being built on the 84th to 110th floors of the 121-story Shanghai Tower building will be the second tallest building in the world when it is completed in 2014, while Shanghai Disneyland, 11kms from Pudong, a Magic Kingdom-style park will open in 2015 - just two of the city's significant developments.

Famil participant, Vanessa McGinley, Directions Conference & Incentive Management, made the comment, "In Asia everything is usually more structured and there's not a lot of flexibility.

"You can really tell this is a terrific city for MICE, where everyone is working together. "People here get it!" she enthused.

The Aussie group is pictured at the Westin Bund Center Hotel, front row seated Mike Smith, Shanghai Municipal Tourism Administration Australia; Dianna Crebbin, DC Conferences; Ashley Crocker, 212F Events Company.

Back row: James Zheng, SICMO; Vanessa McGinley, DCIM; Bea Lim, Carlson Wagonlit Travel; Laura Richards, The Conference Business; and Robert Davis.

Shanghai shines

SHANGHAI recently wrapped up a very successful 52nd IACC Congress.

Held at the Shanghai Expo Center 2-6 November (on the site of the former 2010 World Expo), Patrick Chen deputy director Shanghai Municipal Tourism Administration and vice chair person of ICCA AP Chapter, in conversation with BEN said, "We bid for and won the conference in 2010 and were delighted to welcome this prestigious event to our city."

"The conference attracted 900 conference centre delegates from 50 different countries," he said.

Ho hum changes to ho, ho, ho

AFTER the recent Blue Mountains bushfires, the call has gone out to help businesses struggling against perceptions that it is still a no go area.

Cheeky Food Group, keen to help and put business their way, report they have just booked another conference cook-up at the Fairmont Resort Blue Mountains.

"Just like we rallied around Brissie after the floods, let's push business up there," asks Cheeky's Leona Watson.

"We send hugs to all and to our fires," she said.

MEANWHILE there are a few spots left, great deals, upgrades, fun and mayhem to be had at Cheeky Christmas Cooking parties.

They have a great choice from which to choose that start from \$120pp - 1300 785 365.

AEA on essentials

THE Australian Events Academy (AEA) has a one-day specialist workshop titled *Essentials in Meetings and Event Management* that allows participants to gain a valuable foundation in organising quality meetings and events.

It covers such topics as what is required to successfully take on the role of the meeting/event manager; how to set the objectives of the meeting and construct a realistic budget; understanding sponsorship; selecting the most appropriate venue; and making the most of presentations.

It will take place on Tue 26 Nov at the SMC Function Centre, Goulburn Street, Sydney.

To find out more email training@a-e-a.edu.au or visit www.meetingevents.com.au.



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business events news

18th November 2013

Paint, sip, hic

ON Saturday 23rd November, Sydney's Balmain Hotel will play host to an afternoon event, "Margaritas and Masterpieces" at which the participants will learn the basics of acrylic painting from a qualified artist.

This concept will transform the local pub into an art studio for all abilities – with a free cocktail on arrival and canapés served throughout.

New to Australia, it has taken the concept of a traditional art class and turned it into entertainment – making it accessible to a whole new audience.

Owner, Emma Clisby first experienced the popularity of the 'Paint and Sip' industry while travelling through the United States.

However, in bringing the concept back to Australia, she wanted to add a unique touch.

"What makes Margaritas and Masterpieces different is that it is fully mobile. We bring the experience to you."

With everything supplied and no experience necessary, Clisby says that the emphasis is firmly on fun.

"It's popular with couples, workmates or large groups."

To book (group discounts available) or to find out more tel: 0404 197 912 or online at www.trybooking.com/DQHF.

ETM parent halted

CORPORATE Travel Management, the parent company of Event Travel Management, this morning placed its shares into a trading halt, pending an announcement regarding a proposed capital raising.

AIME hosted buyers soar

HOSTED buyer numbers for next year's Asia-Pacific Incentives & Meetings Expo are already 46% ahead of where they were at the same time last year.

According to AIME and CIBTM exhibition director, Jacqui Timmins, the growth can be partly attributed to work to tap into new audiences via AIME Ambassadors around the globe. "Ambassadors are senior-level industry professionals whose role is to identify and invite key clients from their region, and the key markets they work in, to attend AIME as a Hosted Buyer."

"Our team of existing Ambassadors have been working



to target the high profile buyers that our exhibitors want to see at AIME," Timmins said.

New ambassadors, such as

Destination Asia and Hyatt Hotels & Resorts, have also been able to reach out to their

networks uncovering "brand new buyers that our exhibitors have not seen before at the show," she added.

AIME will take place at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre on 18-19 Feb 2014, with the organisers saying that 80% of surveyed Hosted Buyers have already confirmed business with exhibitors they met at AIME this year.

AIME has also announced a 25% increase in targeted numbers of Australian hosted buyers.

A rewarding corporate getaway

BALGOWNIE Estate, a diverse conference and events venue in the Yarra Valley, less than an hour's drive from the Melbourne CBD, has a special offer on corporate seminars.

Book 10 rooms or more in December or January 2014 and receive a complimentary upgrade from a Standard Queen Room to a One Bedroom Spa Suite for all rooms booked.

The purpose designed state-of-the-art resort can cater for groups up to 320 people.

Discounted conference packages start at just \$69 per person and groups of 20 or more receive complimentary data projector use for the entire conference period.

Valid for new conference bookings only made 01 Nov-31 Jan 2014 - for details see www.balgownieestate.com.au.

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crumbs!

CHRISTCHURCH is continuing to get back on its feet following the February 2011 earthquake, and the latest icon to emerge from the rubble is the city's famous tramway.

Reopening this month, it's not the complete tram circuit loved by visitors and locals, but it's a great start, with stops for punting on the Avon and the Christchurch Botanic Gardens.

Each tram has been fitted with new screens and video content to show visitors what Christchurch looked like before the quakes, in addition to detailed local commentary on the city and new routes being introduced.

Welcome Aboard operates five trams, a restaurant tram and two trailers.

History abounds, with the oldest tram at approximately 109 years old, 'Number 11' - the 'Birney', formerly a cable car from Invercargill and the first electric tram in Christchurch, has been completely restored and reconditioned ready for the trams' VIP re-opening event in late November.

Many of the original pre-earthquake tram drivers are returning to work as drivers.

Before the earthquakes, an estimated 280,000 people rode the trams each year, resulting in three million over 10 years, and the reopening is great news for locals who can start reusing their annual tram passes.

The trams have been out of operation for almost 1,000 days (996 days) since the earthquake.

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business events news

18th November 2013

Vietnam floods cause hotel relocations

AS the whole nation continues to express its deepest sympathies and support to the families and victims of Typhoon Haiyan, Destination Asia reports that the tropical depression moved into Vietnam on Thursday producing very heavy rainfall across the country.

"An astonishing 449mm (17.67 inches) of rain has fallen in Hue since Thursday. Da Nang has reported more than 180mm (7 inches)," they say.

The flooding has affected some of Destination Asia's guests staying at the Anantara Resort Hoi An who have been relocated to the Le Belhamy Resort, about 8km away.

Guests who are arriving over the next few days will be relocated to other nearby hotels and resorts.

Ritz-Carlton into India



INDIA'S first Ritz-Carlton with a stunning collection of 1,240 art pieces, including large murals, paintings, sculptures and tapestry, has opened in Bengaluru (Bangalore), the capital city of Karnataka.

Standing on 1.2 hectares, the 277 room hotel with an external façade made from limestone imported from Jerusalem and the use of jali work, synonymous with the palaces of Rajasthan, has more than 1,700 square metres of conference and event space that can accommodate up to 1000 guests.

There's also a spectacular ESPA spa area designed in onyx and mother-of-pearl, while an array of F&B options includes The Lantern Chinese restaurant, Indian restaurant Riwas and the Bang bar on the 15th floor.

Enough to sink a battleship!



WHEN the International Fleet Review was held on Sydney Harbour last month, Laissez-faire Catering hosted the biggest week in their history, catering for a record breaking 15,000 people over one weekend.

Commissioned to provide the entire food and beverages operation on Garden Island, Ian-Michael Frakas, head of sales and marketing remarked, "The Navy alone had more than 3,000 guests over a three-day period.

"We were also the exclusive caterer and retail operator at the Australian Maritime Museum, which saw its highest attendance over a weekend with more than 15,000 visitors, most of them dining in our restaurant, cafe, kiosk and pop-up stores.

Carrington's new owners

ONE of the largest real estate developers in Shanghai has purchased Peppers Carrington Resort in NZ's North Island.

With a commitment to invest millions of dollars over the next few years they intend to realise the resort's full potential, to attract more high-income tourists, increase wine exports from the property and offering new local jobs.

Simon Jones has been appointed ceo of the resort and its associated companies.

Yearning for Yering

CHATEAU Yering in the heart of Vic's Yarra Valley still has some dates available for November and December Christmas functions.

Lunch from \$55, dinner from \$80 - more info 03 9237 3333 or functions@chateauyering.com.au.

Hamilton sees light

STATE of the art HD resolution projection technology has been installed by AVPartners at the Hamilton Island Conference Centre in Qld's Whitsundays.

The two 8.5KHD projectors allow for visibility from a distance and ensures that a presentation on the big screen looks as close as possible to the original.

It also ensures that the presenter's message is delivered to a much higher standard.

There are also new digital signal cables in the conference centre along with a Full-HD Vision Mixer.

Out to pasture

INPLACE Recruitment md Sandra Chiles is speaking out on behalf of mature aged workers because she finds that many employers in our industry consider those over 38 lack the energy or passion to learn new skills.

"There are also assumptions that people who have not achieved a senior status by this age aren't as interested in making a valuable contribution to a business," Chiles said, adding that the assumptions are "highly disputable at the least and simply ridiculous in my opinion.

"With today's workforce moving into the 50+ age group and without the same numbers of people entering the workforce behind them, we will not be able to meet the demands for staff in the future with this thinking.

"We should be addressing any needs of those wanting to make a change to their work life to ensure we keep their skills for many more years to come.

"We need to look at the economic value of mature employees," she said.

"Each person should be looked at individually and assessed on the merit of their skills and ability to perform the duties of the role."

Starwood Bali roles

STARWOOD Bali Resorts Collection has announced the appointment of Lillian Tan as cluster director of sales & marketing and Marlieke Janssen digital marketing manager for the new Sheraton Bali Kuta Resort and Le Meridien Bali Jimbaran.

Tan will also oversee the opening of two new properties in the coming years – The Westin Ubud Resort & Spa and The Sarasvati, A Luxury Collection Resort & Spa.

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